

Travelrite International invites you to join us on the 2026

# RAILWAYS, CHERRY BLOSSOMS AND TEMPLES OF JAPAN

24 March – 8 April 2026

Visiting Tokyo, Hakone, Mt Fuji,  
Oigawa Steam Train, Kyoto, Nara, Osaka,  
Hiroshima, Kanazawa, Takayama, Niigata,  
Banetsu Steam Train, Aizu-Wakamatsu,  
Taigu Steam Train, Nikko, Tokyo



TRAVELRITE  
INTERNATIONAL

INCLUDES



Accommodation, sightseeing tours, local bullet trains  
and heritage trains, luggage transport, some meals,  
an expert tour leader, local guides

## RAILWAYS, CHERRY BLOSSOMS AND TEMPLES OF

# JAPAN

The Sakura, or cherry blossom is Japan's national flower and the blooming seasonal spectacle in springtime is celebrated with hanami, the traditional custom of enjoying the beauty of flowers. Your rail and cultural tour of Japan will experience the best of the country when the landscape is alive with pink cherry trees. Starting in the dazzling Tokyo, you'll see neon billboard filled suburbs and wacky fashion before travelling on a Shinkansen bullet train, followed by a ride on the Oigawa heritage steam railway. In Hakone, you'll see the volcanic Mt Fuji while riding the Tozan Mountain Railway and enjoy a boat ride on Lake Ashi. Try a Yakiniku barbecue and some Teppanyaki, and take a bullet train to the imperial Kyoto to see geishas, the Golden Pavilion and travel on the Sagano Forest Railway, before exploring the Great Buddha in Nara and the brash and colourful Osaka. Moving on, you'll marvel at the Miyajima Gate and reflect at the Peace Park in Hiroshima, explore the gardens and castles of Kanazawa, see the thatched-roof farm cottages in rural Shirakawa-go and Gokayama and tour the atmospheric Takayama. Head up the coast to Niigata to ride the Banetsu steam train through scenic countryside and hop aboard the Taigu heritage steam train in Nikko and travel through a forested valley gorge to unwind in an outdoor onsen bath. Return to Tokyo to see Sumo wrestling, the electronic shops of Akihabara and the Godzilla statue in Shinjuku. As you travel by rail with your Australian tour leader and local guide, you will have your large luggage transported by coach throughout the tour. There's simply so much to see in Japan, and Travelrite's in depth escorted tours are the best way to do it.

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore Tokyo's suburbs: full of high-tech gadgetry, funky fashions and temples
- Travel on the heritage steam railways of Taigu, Banetsu and Oigawa
- Ride a bullet train to see Mt Fuji and cruise on Lake Ashi in Hakone
- See Kyoto's Kinkaku-ji temple and the red Torii gates at Fushimi Inari Shrine
- Enjoy a ride on the Tozan Mountain and Sagano Forest Railways
- Ride a heritage tram in Hiroshima and reflect on the city's tragic history

### YOUR ITINERARY

#### DAY 1 Tuesday 24 March 2026

##### Tokyo

Make your way to the group hotel and check in. As flights land in Tokyo, either early in the morning or in the evening, we don't include a welcome dinner on this day. Tokyo, with its skyscrapers, historic temples, bustling streets and flashy neon lights has a greater metro population of 42 million people and is the largest city in the world. *Overnight:* Shinagawa Prince Hotel, Tokyo



#### DAY 2 Wednesday 25 March 2026

##### Tokyo

We start the day with a tour briefing over breakfast, and travel on Tokyo's vast metro system to see the sights. We first visit Tsukiji Fish Market, the world's largest, and tour the Meiji Shrine in the cherry blossom filled Yoyogi Park. Wander the nearby Harajuku neighbourhood, full of funky teen fashionistas and cat cafes and enjoy free time at lunch. Explore Asakusa's Buddhist temple before traversing the famous Shibuya Crossing,

the world's busiest pedestrian intersection.

Explore the lively Dogenzaka Street, the infamous Love Hotel Hill and enjoy a welcome dinner in the Nonbei Yokocho area. *Overnight:* Shinagawa Prince Hotel, Tokyo (B,D)

#### DAY 3 Thursday 26 March 2026

##### Oigawa Railway – Hakone

After breakfast, we'll travel on our first Shinkansen bullet train journey through picturesque scenery and past the symbol of Japan, Mt Fuji, disembarking at Kanaya. It's here where we'll ride a 1920s heritage steam train, the Oigawa Railway along a scenic river valley passing cherry blossom trees, lush green tea fields and rural villages. Enjoy lunch at leisure, and travel to Hakone, known for its mountain scenery and the conical volcano of Mt Fuji and check into your hotel. Later, enjoy a yakiniku barbecue dinner together. *Overnight:* Hakone Kowakien Hotel, Hakone (B,D)



#### DAY 4 Friday 27 March 2026

##### Hakone – Mt Fuji – Tozan Mountain Railway

This morning, we'll see the volcanic geysers of the Owakudani Valley and enjoy spectacular views of Mt Fuji. Travel on the Hakone Ropeway to the peak of Mt Kamiyama, and continue on another cable car for a ride on the Tozan Mountain Railway. This 95-year-old train winds through a narrow, densely wooded valley past cherry trees and over many bridges and tunnels, stopping at small stations along the way. Arrive at the Hakone Open Air Museum for free time at lunch, and enjoy a boat ride on Lake Ashi for yet more views of Fuji. Return to your hotel for a free evening. *Overnight:* Hakone Kowakien Hotel, Hakone (B)

## DAY 5 Saturday 28 March 2026

### Kyoto

This morning, we'll travel on a bullet train to the imperial Kyoto which is known for its traditional teahouses, scenic gardens and atmospheric temples. Check into your hotel, and wander the historic Nishiki Market where you can purchase lunch, and tour the Golden Pavilion at the Zen Buddhist Kinkaku-ji temple. Finish by travelling on the Sagano Forest Railway, along rivers and through a ravine to a rural village where you'll tour the Okochi Sanso Villa and Gardens. Return to Kyoto and enjoy dinner together in the geisha district of Gion. *Overnight:* Kyoto Tower Hotel, Kyoto (B,D)



## DAY 6 Sunday 29 March 2026

### Kyoto

This morning, you'll tour the serene Arashiyama Bamboo Grove to see a tunnel of green with sunlight filtering through the trees, and visit the famed Fushimi Inari Shrine where you will wander through some of the vermilion-coloured Torii gates. After lunch at one of Kyoto's traditional wooden Machiya townhouses, you'll tour the Nijo Castle, which is known for its hot pink cherry blossoms during springtime, the Kyoto Railway Museum at Umekoji Railway Park and enjoy some free time in the late afternoon and evening. *Overnight:* Kyoto Tower Hotel, Kyoto (B,L)



## DAY 7 Monday 30 March 2026

### Nara – Osaka – Hiroshima

This morning, you'll catch a train and travel to Japan's first capital at Nara to tour the awe-inspiring Great Buddha, explore the historically significant Todaiji temple, and meet and feed the resident deer at Nara Park. Enjoy lunch at leisure, and continue by train to the eccentric and vibrant Osaka. On arrival, tour the vibrant Shinsaibashi and Doguyasuji shopping arcades, the neon billboard filled Dōtonbori and grab a takeaway bite from the Kuromon Ichiba Food Market. Hop on a Shinkansen bullet train and travel the 80 minutes to Hiroshima. Free evening. *Overnight:* Hotel Granvia, Hiroshima (B)

## DAY 8 Tuesday 31 March 2026

### Miyajima – Hiroshima

After breakfast, you'll take a train and a ferry to the island of Itsukushima to see the giant Miyajima Torii Gate, which appears to float in the water. Enjoy some lunch at a local restaurant, maybe trying the local Okonomiyaki savory pancake. Return to Hiroshima, and reflect at the Peace Memorial Park where you'll see the A-Bomb Dome and learn about the horrific atomic bomb attack during WWII. Enjoy the sight of pink cherry trees, and finish by riding an iconic vintage streetcar to hear the whirr and clunkity-clunk of these old trams. Free evening. *Overnight:* Hotel Granvia, Hiroshima (B,L)



## DAY 9 Wednesday 1 April 2026

### Kanazawa

This morning, take another bullet train, this time to Kanazawa via Kyoto, arriving in the early afternoon. Enjoy gorgeous rural landscapes on board, where you can purchase lunch at your own cost. Best known for the cherry tree filled 17th century Kenrokuen Garden and Kanazawa Castle Park, plus the historic samurai and geisha districts, temples and fascinating traditional markets, Kanazawa is a great place to spend a few days. Tour some of the sights after hotel check in, and enjoy a group dinner of izakaya and fresh seafood in the old town. *Overnight:* ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kanazawa (B,D)

## DAY 10 Thursday 2 April 2026

### Takayama – Shirakawa-go - Gokayama – Kanazawa

This morning, travel on a Shinkansen train to the Edo-period town of Takayama in the Japanese Alps. This tranquil town retains a traditional touch, especially in its beautifully preserved old town, and on arrival, you'll enjoy a tour and free time for lunch where you can try the famous Hida beef. Later, head to the rural villages and UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama, which are known for their clusters of charming thatched-roof farm cottages, constructed in a distinctive architectural style. Tour the area, and return to Kanazawa for a free evening. *Overnight:* ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kanazawa (B)

## DAY 11 Friday 3 April 2026

### Niigata

This morning, enjoy some time free time to relax, or explore more of Kanazawa. Why not wander the suburb of Higashi Chaya, which is full of colourful alleyways and traditional houses and enjoy a Japanese tea ceremony at one of the local tea rooms. In the late morning, travel by rail to Niigata, with a change of trains in Takasaki. Arrive in port city of Niigata the late afternoon, check into your hotel and enjoy a group dinner together trying some local favourites such as Noppe, a meat and vegetable stew, Hegi Soba noodles and the delicious Murakami Beef. *Overnight:* Hotel Nikko, Niigata (B, D)



## DAY 12 Saturday 4 April 2026

### Banetsu Steam Train – Aizu-Wakamatsu

This morning, you'll take a ride on the SL Banetsu Monogatari steam train for a journey to Aizu-Wakamatsu. Also known as the "Joyful Train", this locomotive was built in 1946 and is nicknamed "The Noble Lady" due to its graceful appearance and nostalgic interior decoration. Enjoy fine views of the countryside, full of green rice paddies and cherry trees, and purchase lunch on board at your own cost. Arrive at Aizu-Wakamatsu in the early afternoon, check into your hotel and visit the 14th century Tsuruga jo Castle, which is located in the town centre. *Overnight:* Hotel Route-Inn, Aizu-Wakamatsu (B)

## DAY 13 Sunday 5 April 2026

### The Aizu Mount Express train – SL Taigu Steam Train – Nikko

After an early breakfast, you'll travel on the scenic Aizu Mount Express train to Nikko. On arrival, enjoy a ride on the historic steam locomotive SL Taigu to appreciate the days when steam lines were the only form of train travel in the country. Travel through forested landscapes, and enjoy lunch at the hot spring resort town of Kinugawa Onsen on arrival. It's here where you can relax in one of the outdoor baths (onsen's) while viewing the beautiful scenery of the deep valley gorge. Later, arrive at your hotel and check in. Free evening. *Overnight:* Chuzenji Kanaya Hotel, Nikko (B,L)



## DAY 14 Monday 6 April 2026

### Nikko

After breakfast, you'll tour Nikko. The town is located along Japan's "Romantic Road" which is full of interesting towns, hot spring resorts and stunning natural scenery. Tour the lavishly decorated Toshogu Shrine, and visit the Nikko Toshogu Museum of Art and have lunch. Later, visit the red-lacquered Shinkyo Bridge and the Buddhist temple of Rinno-ji, before relaxing at Chuzenji Lake, which features pristine forests of towering cedars, blooming flowers and cherry blossoms during springtime. Return to Nikko in the late afternoon for some free time. *Overnight:* Chuzenji Kanaya Hotel, Nikko (B,L)

## DAY 15 Tuesday 7 April 2026

### Tokyo

This morning, you'll travel by train back to Tokyo, arriving in the late morning. On arrival, check into your hotel and enjoy lunch while watching some Sumo wrestling, see the otaku geek culture, maid cafes, anime, and electronics in Akihabara, view the Tokyo Sky Tree and the Asahi Beer Hall, as well as the cherry trees along the Tokyo River. Finish by touring the neon lights, colourful billboards and the giant statue of Godzilla at Shinjuku and enjoy a farewell dinner. Afterwards, have a few optional drinks at Golden Gai, a collection of tiny, atmospheric bars crammed into cosy, lantern-lit alleyways. Return to your hotel. *Overnight:* Shinagawa Prince Hotel, Tokyo (B,L,D)

## DAY 16 Wednesday 8 April 2026

### Tokyo / Depart

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and make your way to the airport for your flight home. (B)

# RAILWAYS, CHERRY BLOSSOMS AND TEMPLES OF JAPAN

24 March – 8 April 2026

## Tour Price

Per person twin-share \$12,990  
Single supplement \$ 2,980



## Included in the tour price:

- 15 nights' accommodation in well-located first-class hotels with private facilities, on a twin-share basis. Hotel taxes and service charges included.
- 15 breakfasts, 5 lunches, and 6 dinners
- Eight heritage train journeys and experiences
- Shinkansen bullet train journeys
- First-class air conditional local train journeys
- A support vehicle to forward large luggage while on train
- Entry to all sightseeing attractions mentioned in the itinerary, except for those marked 'optional' plus locally guided tours
- Transport by first-class chartered coaches
- A local tour guide throughout
- Tour management by Travelrite

## Not included in the price:

- Return international flights
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Insurance. Travel insurance is strongly recommended
- All items of personal nature, such as drinks, room service, laundry and phone calls
- Meals and drinks, unless specified in itinerary. Breakfasts, lunches, dinners, that are 'included' are marked B, L, D in the itinerary.



TRAVELRITE  
INTERNATIONAL

ATIA  
Australian Travel  
Industry Association

ATAS  
Travel Accredited

## General information and booking conditions

Touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this activity without the need of assistance from others.

**TOUR OPERATOR:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd. A.C.N. 005 817 0781 (Travelrite International) is the tour operator.

**TOUR COSTS:** The tour costs are based on transport, accommodation costs and entrance costs at 18 February 2025. Travelrite reserves the right to alter the costs if any of these factors change, giving any passenger that has booked the right to withdraw with full refund of monies paid or modify arrangements. No alterations to costings will be made within 60 days of departure.

**DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS:** A non-refundable deposit of \$900 per passenger is required at the time of booking. Full payment will be required 60 days before departure. A 1.5% administration charge will be added to payment by Visa, Mastercard and America Express.

**CANCELLATIONS:** Cancellations within 60 days prior to departure will result in the loss of all monies paid. Cancellations outside of 60 days prior to departure will result in the loss of the deposit paid per person. Travel insurance is recommended to cover the costs of cancellation fees due to illness, death in family, etc.

**CHANGES TO THE TOUR ITINERARY:** Travelrite International reserves the right to make changes to the tour itinerary to it in with operational requirements. Any changes to the itinerary will be replaced with similar arrangements with an equal or greater value.

**MINIMUM TOUR NUMBERS:** The tour has been costed on the basis of a minimum number of passengers having booked 60 days prior to departure. Travelrite reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of all monies paid or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified cost if the minimum number is not achieved.

**REFUNDS:** The tour is based on arrangements which do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals or other services not utilised after the tour has commenced.

**BAGGAGE:** All passengers qualify for 1 piece free baggage allowance.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd. is the tour organiser. Travelrite International acts only as agents in making of arrangements with carriers, hoteliers and others for the tour. As a result, we cannot accept liability for any act or omission whatsoever, whether negligent or otherwise of those carriers, hoteliers or other persons providing services in connection with the tour over whom we have no direct or exclusive control. We do not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or any other events which are beyond our direct control, such as, but not limited to, war, flood, fire, civil disturbance, acts of God, acts of government, or any other authorities, terrorism, accidents to or failure of machinery or equipment, or industrial action. The passage contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies or firms and the purchasers of these tours and the passengers. Baggage is at own risk throughout the tour. The contract shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria and any legal action must be undertaken in the State of Victoria.

**DELAYS AND UNFORESEEN EVENTS:** You engage Travelrite International to book this tour on your behalf and you acknowledge that Travelrite International acts as your agent for the purpose of making contracts between you and the various providers of accommodation, transportation and other services that comprise the tour. Travelrite International may without reference to you provide or make available to you, or may as your agent engage any third party to provide or make available to you, any good or service which Travelrite International reasonably believes is necessary for your benefit to maintain the tour itinerary, repatriate you or otherwise accommodate, transport or sustain you in circumstances in which the tour itinerary fails wholly or partly for any reason. You appoint Travelrite International your attorney for this purpose. You agree to pay

Travelrite International any cost thereof and you indemnify Travelrite International in respect of any cost it incurs in this regard. Travelrite International advises you to obtain travel insurance generally including in respect of the risk that any such good or service may become required.

**HOW TO BOOK:** Bookings can be made by completing a booking form and sending it with a deposit of \$900 per person to:

**Travelrite International Pty Ltd**  
423 Whitehorse Road,  
Balwyn, Victoria 3103

Further information can be obtained by telephoning

**Toll Free: 1800 630 343**  
**Phone: (03) 9836 2522**  
**Email: sales@travelrite.com.au**  
**www.travelrite.com.au**

**ABOUT TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) is a well-established travel company which has been marketing throughout Australia for over 40 years. It has a fully ATAS accredited (No. A10538) office at Balwyn. As such it directly represents the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international hotel, tour and transport operators. Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a full member of the Australian Travel Industry Association –ATIA.